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LIFE

AMERICA'S WEEKEND MAGAZINE

THE ULTIMATE HOME MAKEOVER QUICK FIXES FOR EVERY ROOM

(You'll be done tomorrow!)

AT HOME WITH ELLEN

"Every time
people get
together
at my house,
we end up
dancing"

Roller girl: DeGeneres
spruces up LIFE



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DEPARTMENTS

7 Weekend Life: *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition's* Ty Pennington on modeling and remodeling; four great products to occupy your kids on long summer drives; medicine's new weapon against sun damage

10 At Home: The secret of perfect biscuits

11 Milestone: Las Vegas turns a very swinging 100

26 Picture Puzzle: Spot the differences

FEATURES

12 My Favorite Room

Ellen DeGeneres shows us her "fun house" of a home office and takes our decorating quiz. *As told to Margy Rochlin. Photographs by Guy Aroch.*

16 Our Search for the Simple Life

Novelist Jacquelyn Mitchard and her family designed and built the house of their dreams. Less than a year later, they walked away from it.

18 Ten Home Projects . . .

Got an hour (or less)? Transform your home, room by room. *By Dan Shaw*

ON THE COVER

A roller-wielding Ellen DeGeneres puts a little LIFE into her Hollywood Hills home. Photographed by Guy Aroch. Here and on pages 12 through 14: makeup by Meghan McClain/Bardeen Agency; styling by Wendi Ferreira for SoloArtists; hair by Matthew Shields/Wall Group; prop styling by Oscar Perez/Partos Company.



PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Forget shuffleboard. A favorite pastime of residents of the Providence Marianwood nursing home, outside Seattle, is riding Harleys. Members of a local Harley Owners Group visit every six months and take seniors—like 90-year-old Ailie Little—for a few loops around the parking lot. Residents are so hog-wild, says coordinator Diane Bixler, "this is right up there with Christmas for them!" PHOTOGRAPH BY HARLEY SOLTES

WEEKEND LIFE

GREAT IDEAS FOR YOUR NEXT 48 HOURS

NOW PLAYING...

TY PENNINGTON

The star of ABC's *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* enters the home-furnishings biz. Here's what he's got to say about design, carpentry, and... pig parts.

On revamping a room on a small budget: Just add one element that goes *bam!*—like a bedroom could be subtle but the bedding can really lighten it up. You don't want to overdo it, say, with floral on the walls *and* on the bedding.

On the biggest misconception people have about him: People are beginning to realize that I'm a designer. They thought I was just a carpenter, but my idols are Charles and Ray Eames, who designed classic modern furniture that was affordable—and that's what I'm all about.

On how he worked as a model *and* a remodeler: I needed cash to get through art school—that's how I got into modeling. I was the guy hired to make people laugh so they could get shots of everyone laughing. But when that work slows down, you go, "What do I do now?" So I fell back on carpentry to pay the bills.

On his inner Keith Richards: I've had several bands—the first one was Butt Jowl Picnic, which are all parts of a pig. I had a solo act called Barney—I played a drum machine. Now I just play for families on the show. I'm a horrible guitarist, but music helps me relax.

On his favorite thing to do with a mallet: When I'm hanging out with friends, I turn it into a creative evening—like playing extreme croquet, where you bounce the ball off trees. I make it exciting for everyone. I'm a Libra, man, that's what I do.

—CAITLIN COSTIN



LIFE5

OUR EDITORS PICK WHAT TO WATCH, READ & LISTEN TO

1 MOVIE

STAR WARS EPISODE III: REVENGE OF THE SITH (Lucasfilm/20th Century Fox)

One movie, two momentous events: Natalie Portman gives birth to Luke and Leia, and Hayden Christensen slips into that scary Darth Vader getup.



Yoda has a Sith sense.

2 TV

DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES (ABC; Sunday, 9 p.m.)

The season finale offers some closure on Mary Alice's suicide, plus the Wisteria Lane gang gets a new neighbor to snoop on: Emmy-winner Alfre Woodard.

3 BOOK

THE CLOSERS, BY MICHAEL CONNELLY (Little, Brown; \$27)

Connelly's in top form once again with this tight-as-a-noose tale of retired homicide detective Harry Bosch, who returns to the LAPD to investigate a 20-year-old unsolved murder.

4 MUSIC

TOBY KEITH: HONKYTONK UNIVERSITY (Dreamworks Records)

The burly Keith shows his sensitive side with these touching, hand-dog-cowboy songs. The highlight—"She Ain't Hooked on Me No More"—is a weepy duet with country legend Merle Haggard.

5 WEB

101COOKBOOKS.COM

Part blog, part culinary school, this engaging site lets you follow San Francisco photographer Heidi Swanson as she progresses through 100-plus cookbooks, one good recipe at a time.

—MATT HENDRICKSON

Champing at the bits: *Extreme's* Pennington

CELEBRATING

One Enchanted Evening

SANTA CLARA, CALIFORNIA

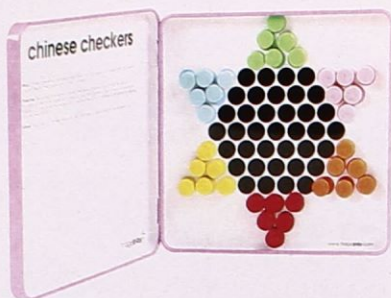
A high-school prom is huge in a teenager's life. But when your living room is your classroom and your parents are your teachers, who's going to throw you a fancy dance? Such was the situation for homeschooler Jessica Noyer, 15. "I have friends in public school, and I could have gone to their prom," says Jessica. "But it wouldn't have been *my* prom." So Jessica petitioned the principal: her mother, Delaine. The extended Noyer family decided to throw a year-end dance for



Gulmert revels among the homeschoolers at their prom.

homeschool students throughout California. Last month, 80 teens put on their best threads and hit the dance floor in Santa Clara; most were homeschoolers, but a few guests were from public and private schools, and so could compare proms. "Pretty cool," says Julien Gulmert, 17, a junior at Pescadero High and, on this occasion, the date of homeschooler Sarah Farmer. "It was far more extravagant than the dances I'm used to. And the choice of music was better too." —MEETA AGRAWAL

Send word of your upcoming festivities—weddings, reunions, etc.—at least one month in advance to celebrating@life.com.



▲ Low-Tech Excitement

Butterfingers board-gamers will be stuck on Goplay magnetic Chinese checkers. Other classic games also available (\$7*; at Barnes & Noble stores).

SHOPPING

Travel Companions

Millions of Americans will hit the road this summer. Many of them will be siblings punching each other in the arm. Give those little brawlers something else to do.



▲ Shooting Star

The kid-friendly Kodak EasyShare C300 digital camera doesn't munch batteries (or film!), and the image quality is good enough to satisfy Mom and Dad (\$100; at www.kodak.com).

Drivin' Theater ▼

Parents rave about the Panasonic DVD-LS50 portable DVD player's three-hour battery life and tilting LCD screen, which can hang from a car's front seat—keeping it out of Junior's reach (\$400; at Best Buy stores).



▲ Backseat Drawing

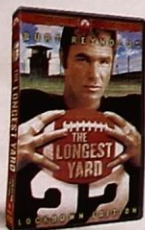
Keep preschool Picassos occupied (and well rested) with the Crayola Travel Turtle lap desk: It comes with crayons, plus a detachable pillow for nap time (\$20; at Wal-Mart stores).

—DAVID G. ALLAN

*All prices approximate

DVD CLUB

FOOD, FRIENDS, AND ONE FUN FILM TO DISCUSS.



THE FLICK: *The Longest Yard* (Paramount Home Entertainment; R: 121 minutes)

THE PLOT:

In this scrappy action-dramedy that paved the way for 1970s sports cinema (*Slap Shot*, *The Bad News Bears*, *Rocky*), Burt Reynolds stars as former pro quarterback Paul Crewe, who lands himself in the big house for stealing his girlfriend's car. While inside, he's coerced into organizing a guards-versus-prisoners gridiron match, but here's the catch: If Crewe throws the game, he'll make parole.

TALKING POINTS:

1. Steroid use, point-shaving, and racial politics are all touched on in the film. Has sports changed much in the past 30 years?
2. An updated version of *The Longest Yard*—with Adam Sandler playing Crewe—debuts on May 27. Discuss movie remakes that you think have been as good as the originals.
3. When this movie was made, Reynolds was considered a sex symbol. How has Hollywood's concept of the male ideal evolved—or not—over the years?
4. "This was the best football movie ever

made," says ESPN.com columnist Bill Simmons in a DVD extra. Given the worthy football films out there—from *North Dallas Forty* to *Remember the Titans*—do you think it's still the best?

WHAT TO SERVE:

While a plate of prison-style beans and white bread might be fitting, go with tailgating faves like nachos and buffalo wings.

—D.G.A.

Coming next week: *The Aviator*

Got a suggestion for the DVD Club? Write to us at dvdclub@life.com.

PHOTOGRAPH (ABOVE LEFT) BY ANNE HAMERSKY

ASK MR. KNOWITALL

YOUR DINNER-TABLE ARGUMENTS
SETTLED, ONCE AND FOR ALL

What's the origin of baseball's seventh-inning stretch?

The most colorful theory credits our **twenty-seventh president, William Howard Taft**. Legend has it that in 1910, the 300-pound chief executive was watching a ball game (and presumably ingesting large quantities of peanuts and Cracker Jack) when he began to feel constrained by his cramped wooden chair and stood up to stretch. The crowd, thinking Taft was leaving the stadium, rose out of deference. A few minutes later, Taft sat down. The crowd sat down too. And voilà!—a sporting tradition was born.

Perhaps. It seems the first known reference to the seventh-inning stretch actually comes much earlier: In an 1869 letter, **Cincinnati Red Stockings** player **Harry Wright** described an interesting ritual that had been spontaneously occurring at games—"spectators all arise between halves of the seventh inning, extend



their legs and arms and sometimes walk about." Some baseball historians attribute the custom to **Brother Jasper**, the first coach of **Manhattan College's** baseball team. During a tense 1882 game he noticed the fans getting agitated, so the brother, who was the school's order-keeping prefect of discipline, mandated a seventh-inning unwinding of the limbs. It worked so well he adopted it permanently.

Either way, it seems the Taft story is a bunch of hokey. On the other hand, the one about Taft getting stuck in a presidential bathtub and needing the head butler to pull him out? That one's true.

—A.J. JACOBS, AUTHOR OF *THE KNOW-IT-ALL*

Got a question no one else can answer? E-mail it to knowitall@life.com. Because of the volume of submissions, not all e-mails will receive responses.

HEALTH

Secret Sun Damage

More and more skin doctors are looking at photography as a way to get Americans to slather on sunscreen. Ultraviolet cameras can glimpse into the skin's deepest layers, where sun damage lurks before emerging as wrinkles, sunspots, and even precancerous lesions. Scientists at the perpetually sunny University of California at San Diego have found that students who undergo this imaging are more likely to change their attitude about tanning. Even those with seemingly flawless skin are shocked by the damage that's occurred. A dermatologist can tell you more about this technology; find one at www.aad.org. —CAROLINE PALMER



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20TH ANNIVERSARY

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SUNDAY DINNER

Alton Brown's Buttermilk Biscuits



Brown with Grandma, 1965

“My grandmother’s biscuits were the first food I tried to imitate in the kitchen. But mine tasted different. It took a while to realize that hers had been so tender because she had arthritis and couldn’t knead the dough well. The secret: Go easy on the flour (the dough should be really wet). Then work it as little as possible. These biscuits are perfect with fried chicken or roast beef; or, at breakfast, serve them with raspberry or blueberry jam. And when the leftovers are getting a bit stale, split them in half, dab butter on top, then broil them until they’re golden brown and crunchy. Which may be the very best way to eat them.” (AS TOLD TO CAITLIN COSTIN)

Alton Brown hosts *Good Eats* on the Food Network. His latest cookbook is *I'm Just Here for More Food*.

⌚ | PREPARATION TIME: 30 MINUTES | COOKING TIME: 15 TO 17 MINUTES | MAKES: 18 BISCUITS

INGREDIENTS » 2 cups all-purpose flour » 4 teaspoons baking powder » ½ teaspoon baking soda » 1 teaspoon salt » 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, frozen » 1 cup buttermilk » ⅓ cup plain yogurt » 1 large egg

HEAT oven to 450°F.

MIX flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt in a food processor; transfer to a large bowl. Place a cheese grater over bowl, and rub butter over grater’s largest holes.

TOSS butter into flour gently, using hands. With fingers, rub in butter until about half disappears into flour and the rest has clotted into pea-sized bits. Put butter-flour mix in freezer.

COMBINE buttermilk, yogurt, and egg in a big bowl; stir well with a spatula. Add to butter-flour mix. Stir to form dough.

DUST a long piece of waxed paper lightly with flour. Place dough in middle; with paper’s ends, gently form dough into a rectangle ½ inch to 1 inch thick. Use paper to fold the left third of dough over the middle, then the right third. Repeat 3 more times.

CUT dough into 2-inch rounds with an upside-down glass; reshape scraps and cut more biscuits. Place on an ungreased cookie sheet. Gently press down in biscuits’ middles to barely dimple them.

BAKE until golden brown, 15 to 17 minutes. Serve hot.



PHOTOGRAPH (ABOVE) BY JIM FRANCO

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MILESTONE

Happy Birthday, Vegas!

This month marks Sin City's centennial: It was 100 years ago that an auction of 110 dusty acres in the Mojave Desert planted seeds for what's become a shimmering symbol of excess. Musicians, mobsters, and molls populate the legend. Today, stroller-pushing moms and dads, lured by roller coasters, water rides, and other over-the-top family fare, also make the scene. And what a scene it is.



The birth of Glitter Gulch: Gambling's legalization in 1931 turned Fremont Street into a bettor's paradise.



New York mobsters like Meyer Lansky, seen on a casino site in Vegas, went west in droves after World War II.



Jake Freedman, an owner of the Sands casino, with an off-duty showgirl at the roulette table, circa 1955.



Ring-a-ding: The Rat Pack's Dino, Sammy, and Frank set a tone of bawdy conviviality in the early '60s.



Today, families flock to Las Vegas for surreal fun and frolic in faux versions of Egypt, Paris, and, here, Venice.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CORBIS; HY PESHIN/GETTY IMAGES; LOOMIS DEAN/TIME LIFE PICTURES/GETTY IMAGES; MARTIN PARR/MAGNUM PHOTOS; CORBIS







MY FAVORITE ROOM... Ellen DeGeneres

Daytime's dancing queen
pays tribute to the place
in her house where people
kick up their heels
and let down their hair

When I was growing up in Louisiana, we rented for years. We always rented. We didn't spend more on it. My attitude now is like buying houses [enth]. I like to move. I like architecture. Just when I bought a contemporary house, I bought a Spanish-style house.

I haven't named it yet, even though I've been there for a year. It was supposed to be an office, but then I saw it and decided I wanted something I would spend time in. Sometimes I call it "the fun house" because that's where everybody goes when friends come over, which is fun for me. I'm really good, and I'm equally bad—all with one shot.

Before this room was on *Leno*, and after I invited people over, I was just going to be four. I started getting excited about the pool table, and it got me kept calling more people. I hadn't seen in a while. When I was until, like, 1 a.m., people were dancing. When people were here, there's always been a funky playing—that's what Tupac and Eminem were into everybody dancing. I had someone here for a while. They go, "God, that's so fun—we all ended up here. It happens every time we're together here, we end

me, the most important thing is to have a you want to be in all the time. At Christmas, [de Rossi, DeGeneres's girlfriend] and I just met. Her brother and his wife, who I'd met before, came over to spend Christmas us, along with my brother, his girlfriend, my mother. It was a recipe for disaster: No new one another. I didn't know if they'd But in the end, it was a really lovely day, just my brother and her brother getting along. That you picture when you see a scene in a and go, "Oh, wow, that looks nice." You feel you've successfully made a lovely home. ■

House of Ellen

FE drills DeGeneres on the highs and lows of her home-improvement history



It's the craziest paint you've ever seen in a room? When I was 19, I painted my room lavender. Not as soothing as pink.

Best gadget in your house right now? I have a plasma TV that I took out of the ceiling. Of course, my shoe-still amazes me to this day.

Favorite tool? Phillips-head screwdriver. It's all you need.

Q. Biggest pet peeve about a neighbor?

A. I had former neighbors who cut down huge, old, beautiful trees that were perfectly healthy!

Q. Messiest room in the house?

A. I'm actually very neat, although my scrapbooking room can get out of control.

Q. Snap decision: flat or semigloss?

A. Flat.



Q. Least used room?

A. I've stopped using my library because that's where Professor Plum killed Colonel Mustard with the candlestick... oh, I'm thinking of the game Clue.



Ellen tools around.

Q. Best room to read in?

A. I have a screened-in sunporch that's perfect for reading. There's no better light than nature's glow. I'm being serious.

Q. It doesn't feel like home until...?

A. I hang my portrait over the fireplace.

Q. Favorite home show?

A. *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition*. It's amazing and inspiring, and I can



get a week's worth of crying done in one night.

Q. Shades or drapes?

A. Both... and then I tack

a sheet over them for complete privacy.

Q. Which television show features

your favorite house?

A. *Lost*.

Q. The worst interior decorating mistake you've ever made?

A. The sheer drapes I bought that my cats immediately destroyed. And my faux-fur wall.



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OUR SEARCH FOR THE SIMPLE LIFE

WE WERE MARRIED ON THIS LAND. Nearby live the closest friends we have, as well as my only brother, his wife and children. For our entire adult lives, my husband, Chris, and I have resided within 10 miles of where we stand.

Our midwestern home is sited on 40 acres that Chris planted by hand and that burst each spring into wildflowers and grasses of periwinkle, purple, and gold. He'd designed our bedroom as a haven from which we could applaud the sunset, and rounded our kitchen to greet the sunrise as we made breakfast for our six kids. Together, we selected everything from the bricks that frame the door to the low lights that guide small feet on a bathroom trip in the middle of the night. It was everything we ever wanted in a home and more.

Too much more. Less than a year after moving in, we decided to sell the house of our dreams. The simplest explanation was that the house was too complicated. To keep up with the mortgage and the maintenance on our rural idyll, we found ourselves working at warp speed.

So we made an inventory of our expenses to see what could go: The kids already went to public school; their clothes were handed down. As for gourmet food, lobster on anniversaries was about it. Our only indulgence was the summers spent at the funny little house we own, on a rustic cul-de-sac a few miles from the ocean—and a thousand miles from here.

Our funny little house.

Before I married Chris, I was a widowed mother of four, living in a modest house on a crowded street. I wrote a novel that blessed me with a sudden windfall. When a beloved friend told me about a three-bedroom cottage just a shout away from her front porch and a beautiful ocean, I grabbed it. Summers there became the dessert we hungered for all year. Chris and I had two more children together, who also loved that funny little house. But loving a place is one thing. Affording it is another.

It became too clear. To keep our real home, our perfect paradise, with the hickory floors and the chandelier in the shape of a rain cloud, we'd have to sell the funny little house. Sadly, we began to contact Realtors.

SOON, THOUGH, I WAS HAVING DOUBTS. WE'D NEVER REALLY STOPPED TO think about why we'd chosen to live in this prairie palace. Yes, we'd been raised

HUMONGOUS HOUSE ON THE PRAIRIE The author (center) with husband Chris and five of their kids, in their custom-built Wisconsin home.

NOVELIST JACQUELYN MITCHARD LIVED HER DREAM OF BUILDING THE PERFECT HOUSE. BUT WHEN SHE AND HER FAMILY MOVED IN, THEY REALIZED IT WAS TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING. PHOTOGRAPH BY MICHAEL EDWARDS

close by; yes, our families lived in the same time zone. But our visits were four times a year, not weekly.

And though my husband and I had never confided this to each other, each afraid to hurt the other's feelings, we both longed for a life we could more easily hold in our arms. The one we

were living felt unwieldy, overstuffed—not with people but with things. We ended up feeling silly in our grand house—not like the people we truly are. We felt as if our house demanded that we dress up.

Then, my son Dan received an odd homework assignment: He had to write his own epitaph. He wrote, "I died old, near the place I love most, the pond down the road behind the church, where I swam as a child and brought my children as a man." He wasn't describing our new house. He was describing the one we were about to sell.

NOW, CHRIS AND I HAD AN IDEA: IF WE COULD SELL THE HOUSE WE HAD just completed, we could cram ourselves into the little house we loved best, afford it, and work toward the future while enjoying the present. We held a family meeting and asked our kids to tell us the truth. It was painful to hear. "This house is too big," Francie, 9, said. "It has echoes."

"The downstairs is great for sleepovers," said Marty, 16. "But I liked neighbors. Why didn't you suggest this in the first place?"

The children had also felt distant in our opulent home—from us and from one another. They did have privacy, but what they really liked was bumping into one another, dancing to '80s music in the kitchen—as we did in that little house, all summer long.

And yet, the thought of giving up all that dreamed-of luxury—speakers that let us have music all around, walk-in closets jammed with clothes I wore once a year—was like spending two years writing a book and then hitting the delete button.

We gave our kids a final test. "You'll have to share rooms," we said.

They shrugged. We silently rejoiced, knowing that we wanted to raise the kind of kids who would, in turn, raise the kind of kids who wouldn't raise a fuss if told they had to share their rooms.

And so we put our august prairie villa on the market. I gutted my closet. Pruning 20 pairs of shoes down to 5 wasn't so hard. But when I culled my books, I wept, and when I culled the children's, I sobbed. The books we did keep were the shabbiest, but they were the ones signed from brother to brother to sister. Of course, books are just things; and we all say how shallow it is that stuff attaches itself to us like barnacles. The truth is, it hurts to dismantle the archaeology of eight lives. My grandmother had sewn that quilt. That bowl was my mother's, and my mother died when I was 19. Each child's memory box held a tiny first soccer jersey, a baptismal gown, school folders. Some things, no one should toss. So we did not.

The hardest part was to come. Saying good-bye to my brother, his family, my eldest son, now working full-time—no ocean waves could replace their laughter. Still, even a good choice comprises loss. This was a good choice, and a loss both big and real. But each step felt surer, more headed toward than away. As we looked forward to the life we would live, it felt more and more like a better fit for the people we honestly were.

And so we lit out for the territories. We brought only stuff enough to fill one moving van, enough memories and longing for those we left behind to fill a barge, and enough hope to hold a piece in each hand. ■



A shower
curtain does
double duty
as a slipcover.
Easy!

10

HOME PROJECTS YOU CAN DO IN AN HOUR

Minimal fuss. Maximum impact. All you need are a few household items—and some clever design tricks.

BY DAN SHAW • PHOTOGRAPHS BY NGOC MINH NGO
STYLED BY MICHELE MICHAEL

SPRUCE UP YOUR SOFA IN 15 TO 20 MINUTES

A few skillful tucks of a bedspread can give your couch a surprisingly easy makeover. "Bedspreads are kid- and pet-friendly," says Connecticut decorator Bunny Williams—and almost as polished as slipcovers (at a fraction of the price).

WHAT YOU NEED 1 bedspread or other piece of fabric, as wide as your sofa is long >> pillows >> coordinating pillowcases or shams >> heavy-duty Velcro tape for fabric

THE STEPS

LAY fabric over seat and rear of couch, pattern-side up. Fold fabric around seat cushions and tuck edges securely underneath. Repeat with rear cushions.

COVER pillows with pillowcases (close with Velcro tape) or shams; place against backrest.

OUR LOOK Stylist Michele Michael suggests that during the dog days of summer, a shower curtain (woven, not plastic, of course!) is best equipped to stand up to punch-spilling kids and soggy swimsuits. Zinnia shower curtain (\$45) and Grove Stripe sham (\$34) from Garnet Hill (at www.garnethill.com). Hopsack pillow from Crate & Barrel (\$30; at www.crateandbarrel.com).



REVAMP YOUR KITCHEN IN 60 MINUTES*

Why keep your best dishes and kitchen gadgets under wraps? Remove your cabinet doors, and not only will your kitchen look hipper, you'll see exactly where you put that salad bowl.

WHAT YOU NEED screwdriver >> wood filler >> putty knife >> fine-grain sandpaper >> paintbrush >> semigloss paint

THE STEPS

SET aside dishes and other contents. **REMOVE** doors with screwdriver. **PLUG** screw holes with wood filler, and scrape off excess with putty knife. **SMOOTH** cabinet frames with sandpaper, then paint them.

LET paint dry completely (see instructions on can). Repeat with second coat. (Note: You may need to apply primer before painting. Ask at a paint store for advice.)

ARRANGE cabinet contents by category (glasses, dishes, cookbooks, canned goods, etc.) and color.

OUR LOOK For a more extreme makeover, redo the interiors with a bright color. We used Benjamin Moore Waterborne Satin Impervo Enamel in Sun Porch (\$50 per gallon; call 800-672-4686 for stores). Scale from Crate & Barrel.

*Does not include drying time

This ain't your great-aunt's centerpiece.



RESET THE TABLE IN 5 TO 10 MINUTES

Forks, left. Spoons, right. Centerpieces, not in the middle anymore! Take full advantage of a table's length by lining up items—whether they're plants or votive candles—in a single row. It'll make the table look longer—and more inviting.

OUR LOOK Michele Michael used wheatgrass from a local farmer's market and arranged the spread on a Crate & Barrel Chardon tablecloth (\$25 and up; at www.crateandbarrel.com).



Instant makeover: a shock of orange.

BRIGHTEN YOUR BATHROOM IN 40 TO 60 MINUTES*

To overhaul a lackluster bathroom, simply add a splashy vanity color.

WHAT YOU NEED screwdriver
» paintbrush » semigloss or high-gloss latex paint

THE STEPS

REMOVE vanity doors' hinge screws and knobs (if possible).

PAINT vanity and doors; let dry (see instructions on can). Add a second coat. (Note: You may need to apply primer before painting. Ask at a paint store for advice.) Let dry overnight.

REATTACH doors and knobs to vanity.

OUR LOOK An unconventional color heightens the effect: Benjamin Moore Impervex Latex High Gloss Metal and Wood Enamel in Citrus Orange (\$43 per gallon; call 800-672-4686 for stores).

*Does not include drying time



ORGANIZE YOUR PORCH IN 30 TO 45 MINUTES*

Having to run inside for sunblock or a sweater spoils the outdoor fun. Instead, keep everything within arm's reach with roomy totes hung on Shaker pegs. Bonus: no more clutter.

WHAT YOU NEED pine board (1 inch thick, and as long and wide as you like)
» pencil » ruler » level » power drill with 1/2-inch bit » wood glue » Shaker pegs » paint (optional) » 2 No. 8 screws (2 1/2 inches) » bags

THE STEPS

DETERMINE where to hang each bag

pencil (use ruler and level to make sure points are equidistant and even).
DRILL holes 3/8 inch into board; glue in pegs; let dry overnight. Paint if desired; let dry.

MARK where you'd like to place screws on board, with the help of level. Then drill board into wall and hang bags.

OUR LOOK We matched our new rack to the color of the house, then coordinated it with summery totes, one for each member of the family. Pegs from Shaker Workshops (\$8 per dozen; order at 800-840-9121). Pine board available at Lowe's. Totes from Hable (\$150 and up; order at 212-343-8555).



ion that comes with VESicare before you start
ou get a refill. There may be new information,
the place of talking with your doctor or other
about your condition or treatment. Only your
professional can determine if treatment with

medicine used in adults to treat the following
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to go to the bathroom right away, also called

ients, also called "urinary incontinence,"
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adder?

rs when you cannot control your bladder
muscle contractions happen too often or cannot
4 symptoms of overactive bladder, which are
urgency, and urinary incontinence (leakage).

VESicare?

OU: your bladder (also called "urinary retention"),
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e or any of its ingredients. See the end of this
list of ingredients.

doctor before starting VESicare?

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your bladder or you have a weak urine stream,
called narrow-angle glaucoma,

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or both).

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2 doses of VESicare in the same day.
Sicare or overdose, call your local Poison
gency room right away.

side effects with VESicare?

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www.VESICARE.com.

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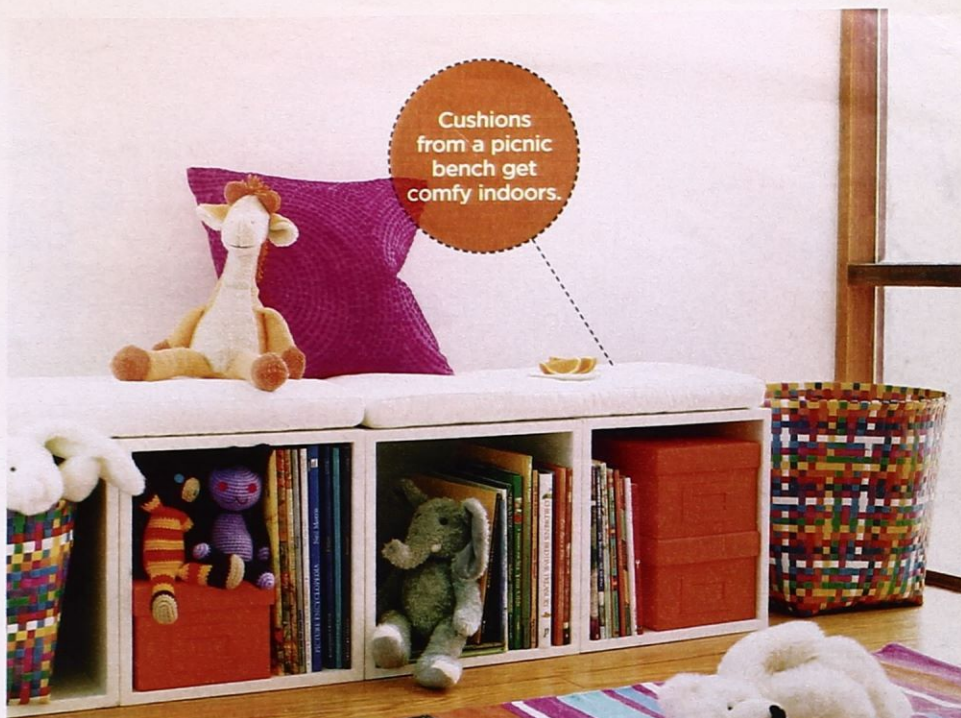
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gsk GlaxoSmithKline

and
of Companies.

VCS15SR0

Cushions
from a picnic
bench get
comfy indoors.



KID-SIZE A BOOKCASE IN 10 TO 15 MINUTES

Want to encourage your kids to read?
Bring shelves down to their level—and
create a library all their own.

WHAT YOU NEED sturdy modular
cubes >> heavy-duty Velcro tape
>> bench cushions

THE STEPS

LINE cubes along wall.
TAPE cushions to cubes with Velcro.

OUR LOOK A sunny menagerie. Cubes
(\$69 each; No. 6183164) and cushions
(\$49 per pair; No. 6804389) from West
Elm (at www.westelm.com). Hold
Everything boxes. Garnet Hill baskets.
Books courtesy of Barnes & Noble.



BUILD A TRELLIS IN 45 TO 60 MINUTES

Plants filling a once-blank wall turn a
drab porch into a garden room.

WHAT YOU NEED 5 strips of plywood
(¾ inch thick and as long as you like,
but 2 strips—your vertical pieces—
should be at least 10 inches longer
than the others) >> pencil >> ruler
>> power drill >> 6 screws (1½ inches)
>> 4 screws (2 inches) >> deep crate

THE STEPS

MEASURE with ruler where horizontal
strips should attach to vertical strips,
and mark with pencil (lowest horizon-
tal should be placed higher than crate).
PLACE verticals behind horizontals;
drill in 1½-inch screws in back.
ATTACH trellis to back of crate by
drilling one 2-inch screw near bottom
of planter and one near top (on each
vertical strip).
TRANSPLANT potted climbing flow-
ers to crate.

OUR LOOK Ask your nursery for a
discarded crate (you can't beat that
price!). Wood available at Lowe's.

Are You the Picture of Health?

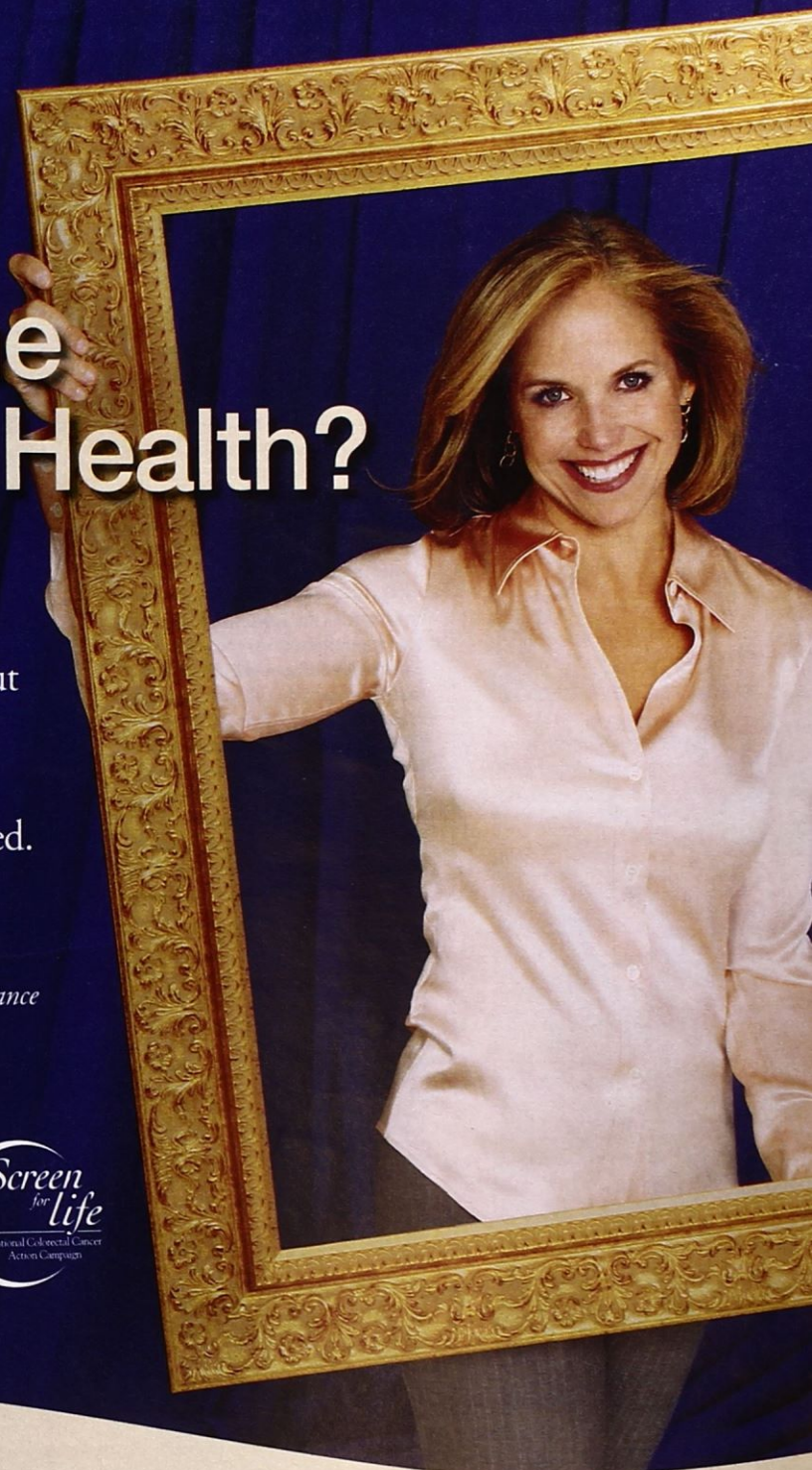
"You might look and feel fine, but you need to get the inside story.

Colorectal cancer often has no symptoms, so please get tested. I did."

*Katie Couric, Co-Founder
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Screening can detect precancerous polyps so they can be removed **before** they turn into colorectal cancer.

If you're 50 or older, talk to your doctor and get screened.



Call: 1 (888) 842-6355 • Visit: www.cdc.gov/screenforlife

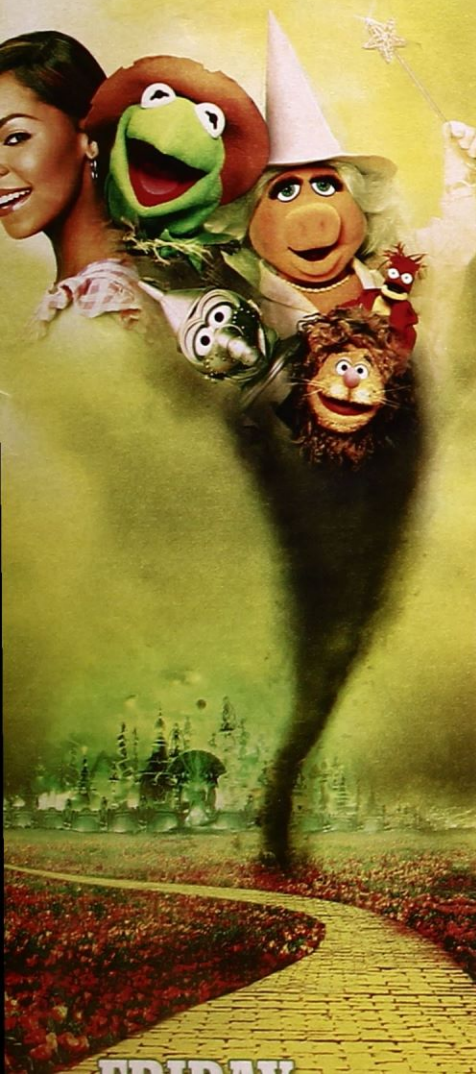


DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



The MUPPETS' WIZARD of OZ

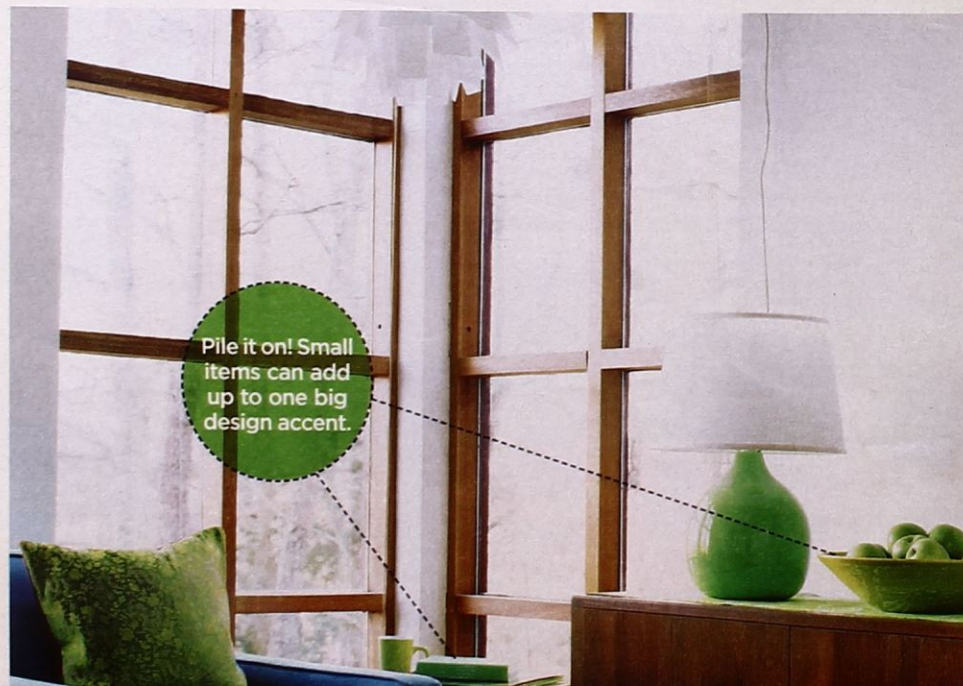
EVERYONE'S FAVORITE STORY BECOMES ONE TWISTED TALE.



MATCH UP ACCESSORIES IN 45 MINUTES

If you want to change the color of a room but don't feel like painting, get the effect by sprinkling same-hued accessories throughout the space. Use objects as small as lamps and vases or as large as an area rug. "Choose a shade you love, and spread it all around," advises Christopher Lowell, the host of Discovery Home Channel's *The Christopher Lowell Show*. You may not even have to go shopping. Start by taking inventory of your closets, cupboards, even your garage—you could discover a color statement in the making.

OUR LOOK Because this is also a low-commitment way to experiment, we went bold here, picking chartreuse accessories. Carnivale Green table lamp from Crate & Barrel (\$70; at www.crateandbarrel.com). Potluck serving bowl from Global Table (\$74; at www.globaltable.com). Rug from Bowron Sheepskin (\$79 and up; at www.rugsusa.com). Chinese brocade pillow fabric from B and J Fabrics (\$21 per yard; order at 212-354-8150).



Pile it on! Small items can add up to one big design accent.



No power drill needed—not even a hammer.

DESIGN A HEADBOARD IN 40 TO 60 MINUTES

Your bedroom's a snooze? Doug Wilson, host of TLC's *Moving Up*, likes to liven things with a fabric headboard.

WHAT YOU NEED ¾-inch-thick plywood (6 inches wider than bed, as high as you like) >> 1 package ¾-inch cotton batting (at least 6 inches wider and longer than plywood) >> scissors >> tape measure >> staple gun >> fabric (same size as batting)

THE STEPS

PLACE batting on floor with plywood on top. Trim so it's 3 inches wider than wood on all sides. Fold over onto wood; staple.

LAY fabric pattern-side down. Place batting side of wood on fabric. Trim so it's 6 inches wider than wood on all sides. Pull fabric taut; fold over onto wood; staple. Place board behind bed.

OUR LOOK A chic boutique hotel. Marimekko Kivet Red fabric (\$42 per yard; at www.kiitosmarimekko.com). Plywood available at the Home Depot. Batting from the Warm Company. Signature Hemstitched Percale bedding from Garnet Hill (\$30 and up; at www.garnethill.com).

FAKE A BIG WINDOW IN 40 TO 50 MINUTES

Let there be light—or just the appearance of it—with this nifty trick. By hanging a curtain rod a little north of the frame, your window will suddenly seem bigger. "It's a marvelous illusion," says Debbie Travis of HGTV's *Debbie Travis' Facelift*.

WHAT YOU NEED stepladder >> ruler >> 2 brackets with screws (or 3 if curtain rod is especially long) >> pencil >> power drill >> stud finder >> curtain panels (wide enough to span window, with material left to gather) >> 1 curtain rod (2 to 4 feet longer than window)

THE STEPS

MEASURE 10 inches higher than top of window, then 10 inches wider on each side of window. Mark with pencil, then install brackets by drilling screws into mark. (For dry-wall, use stud finder to be sure your mark is over a stud; if not, move bracket closer to window.)

SLIP curtains over rod and hang. **POSITION** curtains at edges of window so fabric gathers at the sides.

OUR LOOK To accentuate the airiness of the room, we hung gauzy Contour



What a difference 10 inches makes!

Line Embroidered curtains from Garnet Hill (\$38 and up per panel; at www.garnethill.com) on a Solid Wood rod with brackets (\$35 and up) and finials (\$40 a pair) from Restoration Hardware (at www.restorationhardware.com). Stinson Stripe Cotton Mat from Pottery Barn. ■

so easy you can do it with your eyes closed

talking caller ID



Attention, Shoppers!

There are nine subtle differences between these two photographs. Search high and low (don't forget the floor!) to see how many you can find.



A

B

C







Room with a cue:
chez DeGeneres

When I was growing up in Louisiana, we moved every two years. We never owned. We always rented. We didn't buy things. We didn't spend money. We just saved it. My attitude now is: *Spend* it. I really like buying houses [this is her eleventh]. I like to move. I like change. I like architecture. Just when I think I like a contemporary house, I change to a Spanish-style house or a traditional.

I haven't named this room yet, even though I've been working on it for a year. It was supposed to be an office, but then I started liking it and decided I wanted it to be something I would spend time in. So sometimes I call it "the office," but a fun house is what it is. It's the place where everybody gravitates. When friends come over, we play pool, which is fun for me. Sometimes I'm really good, and then I can be equally bad—all within the span of one shot.

MY FAVORITE ROOM...

Ellen DeGeneres

Daytime's dancing queen pays tribute to the place in her house where people kick up their heels and let down their hair

Before this room was finished, I was on *Leno*, and after the show, I invited people over. At first, it was just going to be four of us. Then I started getting excited about the pool table, and it got out of hand. I kept calling more people I hadn't seen in a while. We all hung out until, like, 1 a.m., playing pool and dancing. When people come over here, there's always something funky playing—that night, it was Tupac and Eminem—and it turns into everybody dancing. If there's someone here for the first time, they go, "God, that was so much fun—we all ended up dancing!" But it happens every time people get together here, we end up dancing. >

As told to Margy Rochlin ● Photographs by Guy Aroch



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My LIFE. My CARD.